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BISTABILITY BASINS OF ATTRACTION AND PREDICTABILITY IN 1/1  
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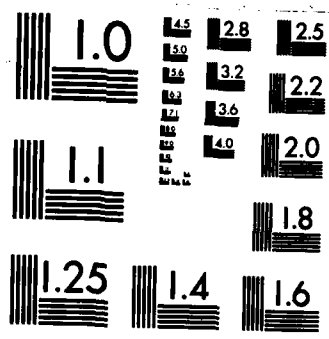
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NRL Memorandum Report 5538

# Bistability, Basins of Attraction, and Predictability in a Forced Mass-Reaction Model

I. B. SCHWARTZ

*Electro-optical Technology Branch  
Optical Sciences Division*

May 13, 1985

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19. ABSTRACT (Continue on reverse if necessary and identify by block number)  A simple mass-reaction model with periodically forced contact rate is considered. It is shown that the forced differential equation exhibits at least two distinct periodic orbits for several ranges of forcing amplitude. Basins of attraction are computed for co-existing stable periodic orbits and are shown to be intertwined in a complex manner. Dimension (capacity) of the basin is computed, and it is shown how the basin structure affects final state predictability.				
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# BISTABILITY, BASINS OF ATTRACTION, AND PREDICTABILITY IN A FORCED MASS-REACTION MODEL

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Bistable phenomena can occur in many physical, chemical, and biological models of natural phenomena [e.g., 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7]. An important subset of problems exhibiting bistability consists of those models employing mass-reaction kinetics. Crucial to understanding any mass-reaction model is a knowledge of the parameter corresponding to the rate of contact between two or more species. In certain applications, the contact rate may be time dependent, and in fact, periodic. For example, the process of temporally increasing and decreasing the solar intensity respectively changes the probability of contact between two reacting species in the atmosphere [8, 9, 10]. In addition to perturbing reactants in the atmosphere, periodic forcing of contact rates plays an important role in modelling recurrent epidemic outbreaks [11, 7]. It is important to note that both physical and biological phenomena exhibit oscillations which are longer than the forcing period, or not periodic at all [10, 12]. Furthermore, it is not uncommon for periodically forced differential equation models to exhibit two or more stable subharmonic solutions for a given set of parameters [e.g., 2, 7, 13]. The question we consider here is, how well can one predict the asymptotic final state given initial conditions having finite precision for a problem that exhibits two different stable periodic orbits.

In particular, <sup>this document</sup> we consider a simple mass-reaction model with a periodically forced contact rate. The following is shown numerically:

(i) There exist parameter values for which the model exhibits at least two distinct stable subharmonic periodic orbits.

(ii) The basins of attraction of each orbit can be very complicated, thus affecting final state predictability as a function of precision in initial conditions.

(iii) The dimension (capacity) of the basin boundary is estimated using the techniques in [14].

## 2. A SIMPLE MASS-REACTION MODEL

Let  $c_i$  denote the fraction of concentrations,  $i = 1, 4$ . The model used is:

$$c_1' = \mu(1 - c_1) - \beta(t)c_1c_3$$

$$c_2' = \beta(t)c_1c_3 - (\alpha + \mu)c_2$$

$$c_3' = \alpha c_2 - (\gamma + \mu)c_3$$

$$c_4' = \gamma c_3 - \mu c_4,$$

(MR)

where  $\mu, \alpha, \gamma$  are constants. Periodicity in the contact rate is incorporated by assuming  $\beta(t) = \beta_0(1 + \beta_1 \cos 2\pi t)$ , and the forcing amplitude,  $\beta_1$ , is the parameter to be varied. Note that  $\sum_{i=1}^4 c_i = 1$  for all time, and therefore it is sufficient to study the first three equations in (MR),  $c_4$  being given by  $1 - \sum_{i=1}^3 c_i$ .

When  $\beta_1 = 0$ , equation (MR) has two steady states:  $(1, 0, 0, 0)$  and  $\mathcal{L}^0 = (c_1^0, c_2^0, c_3^0, c_4^0)$  where  $c_1^0 = (\mu + \alpha)(\mu + \gamma)/\beta_0\alpha = 1/Q$ ,  $c_2^0 = (\mu + \gamma)\mu(Q - 1)/\beta_0\alpha$ ,  $c_3^0 = \mu(Q - 1)/\beta_0$ . Parameters are chosen so that  $(1, 0, 0, 0)$  is unstable and  $\mathcal{L}^0$  is stable. Assume  $Q > 1$ ,  $\mu(Q - 1)$  is small, and introduce the change of variables:  $\mu(Q - 1) = \epsilon$ ,  $\mu + \alpha = \Delta_2/\epsilon$ ,  $\mu + \gamma = \Delta_3/\epsilon$ , where  $\epsilon$  is a small parameter and  $\Delta_2, \Delta_3$  are positive constants. Letting  $c_i = c_i^0(1 + x_i)$ ,  $i = 1, 2, 3$  and using the above scaling results in the system:

$$\begin{aligned} x_1' &= -\epsilon[(\eta + \beta_1 \cos 2\pi t)x_1 + (1 + \beta_1 \cos 2\pi t)x_3 \\ &\quad + \beta_1 \cos 2\pi t + x_1x_3(1 + \beta_1 \cos 2\pi t)] \\ x_2' &= \Delta_2[\beta_1 \cos 2\pi t + (x_1 + x_3)(1 + \beta_1 \cos 2\pi t) \\ &\quad - x_2 + x_1x_3(1 + \beta_1 \cos 2\pi t)]/\epsilon \\ x_3' &= \Delta_3(x_2 - x_3)/\epsilon, \text{ where } \eta = Q/(Q - 1) > 1. \end{aligned} \tag{MS}$$

The non-trivial equilibrium point is moved to the origin, and the eigenvalues of the linearized vector field at the origin are given by  $\lambda \pm (\epsilon) = \epsilon r \pm i\nu + O(\epsilon^2)$ ,  $\lambda_3(\epsilon) = -(\Delta_2 + \Delta_3)/\epsilon + O(\epsilon)$  where  $r = [\Delta_2\Delta_3 - (\Delta_2 + \Delta_3)^2\eta]/2(\Delta_2 + \Delta_3)^2 < 0$ , and  $\nu^2 = \Delta_2\Delta_3/(\Delta_2 + \Delta_3)$ . Thus there is a strong attraction onto a surface in the direction corresponding to  $\lambda_3$ , and a weak attraction in which orbits slowly spiral into the origin. Since the orbits appear to lie approximately in two dimensions where  $c_2(t) \approx (\mu + \gamma)c_3(t)/\alpha$ , we examine variations in  $c_1$  and  $c_3$ . The initial conditions  $(c_1, c_2, c_3)$ , are restricted to satisfying  $c_2 = c_3(\mu + \gamma)/\alpha$  from here on.

### 3. BISTABLE BEHAVIOR

For given values of  $\beta_1 > 0$ , there exist periodic orbits which have period 1 as well as subharmonic periods. Both stable and unstable orbits were computed as a function of  $\beta_1$  using the techniques in [15]. The fixed values of the parameters used in the computations are listed in Table 1. If  $\Phi(t)$  denotes the vector solution to (MS) of a periodic solution of period  $n$  for a given value of  $\beta_1$ , define the norm of  $\Phi$  as

$$||\Phi(t)||^2 = (1/n) \int_0^n \Phi(t) \cdot \Phi(t) dt.$$

A plot of  $||\Phi||$  as a function of  $\beta_1$  is shown in Fig. 1. Emanating from the stable steady state is a small amplitude period 1 orbit. At a critical value of  $\beta_1$ , the period 1 orbit goes unstable (dashed line) and a stable period 2 bifurcates from the period 1 branch. Notice that there also exist large amplitude saddle-node (stable-unstable) bifurcations of periods 3 and 4. Examples of the period 3 and period 2 orbits are shown in Figs. 2a and 2b. From Fig. 1, it is clear that there exist at least two stable periodic orbits for certain values of  $\beta_1$ . Thus the model exhibits bistability for several ranges of forcing amplitude.

Table 1 — Parameter Values Used for Numerical Simulation

$$\beta_0 = 1575$$

$$\mu = 0.02$$

$$\alpha = 1/0.0279$$

$$\lambda = 1/0.01$$

#### 4. PREDICTABILITY AND DIMENSION OF THE BASINS OF ATTRACTION

When  $\beta_1 = 0.1$ , Fig. 1 shows that there co-exist stable period 1 (SP1) and stable period 3 (SP3) orbits. To find the basins of attraction, we simplify the problem by assuming initial conditions,  $(c_1, c_2, c_3)$ , are restricted by satisfying  $c_2 = ((\mu + \gamma)/\alpha)c_3$  as described above. We pick a pair  $(c_1, c_3)$  at random using a uniform probability distribution and then determine if the trajectory converges to an SP1 or SP3 orbit. If it converges to SP1,  $(c_1, c_3)$  is plotted. Otherwise, the trajectory converges to SP3 and the point is not plotted. (No other periodic orbit was observed.) Figure 3a illustrated the basin of attraction for SP1 (dotted) over a given region. The blank areas denote the basin for SP3. A uniform grid was initially chosen, and approximately 24 per cent of the initial conditions converged to SP3. The same procedure was performed for a small region in Fig. 3a, except that the points were chosen at random. Figure 3b shows the result. Clearly the basins of attraction for SP1 and SP3 are intertwined in a complex manner.



In [14] it is shown that a discrete map in two dimensions possessing a complicated basin structure results in an obstruction to predictability. Here we follow their procedure for measuring the predictability of equation (MR). Given a random initial condition,  $(c_1, c_3)$ , we consider perturbed initial conditions  $(c_1, c_3 \pm \bar{\epsilon})$  for a given  $\bar{\epsilon} > 0$ . If at least one of the perturbed initial conditions converges to an orbit other than the orbit passing through the unperturbed initial condition, we say  $(c_1, c_3)$  is uncertain. Four thousand random initial points were chosen, and the fraction,  $F$ , of uncertain initial points was computed. The procedure was then repeated for several values of  $\bar{\epsilon}$ .

Figure 4 illustrates the scaling of  $F$  as a function of  $\bar{\epsilon}$ . Using a linear least squares fit, it is found that  $F$  is proportional to  $\bar{\epsilon}^{0.68}$ . Thus the capacity [16] of the basin boundary is approximately 1.32.

## 5. CONCLUSIONS

We have demonstrated bistability for a simple periodically forced mass-reaction model. Furthermore, we have illustrated that the basins of attraction of the periodic orbits are intertwined. The effect of the complicated basin structure is to obstruct the predictability of the final state given imprecision in initial conditions. That is, given the slope of 0.68 in Fig. 4, to decrease the fraction of uncertain initial conditions in phase space by an order of magnitude requires more than an order of magnitude reduction in uncertainty. Therefore, requiring a high degree of predictability can result in the need to perform extraordinary high precision computations.

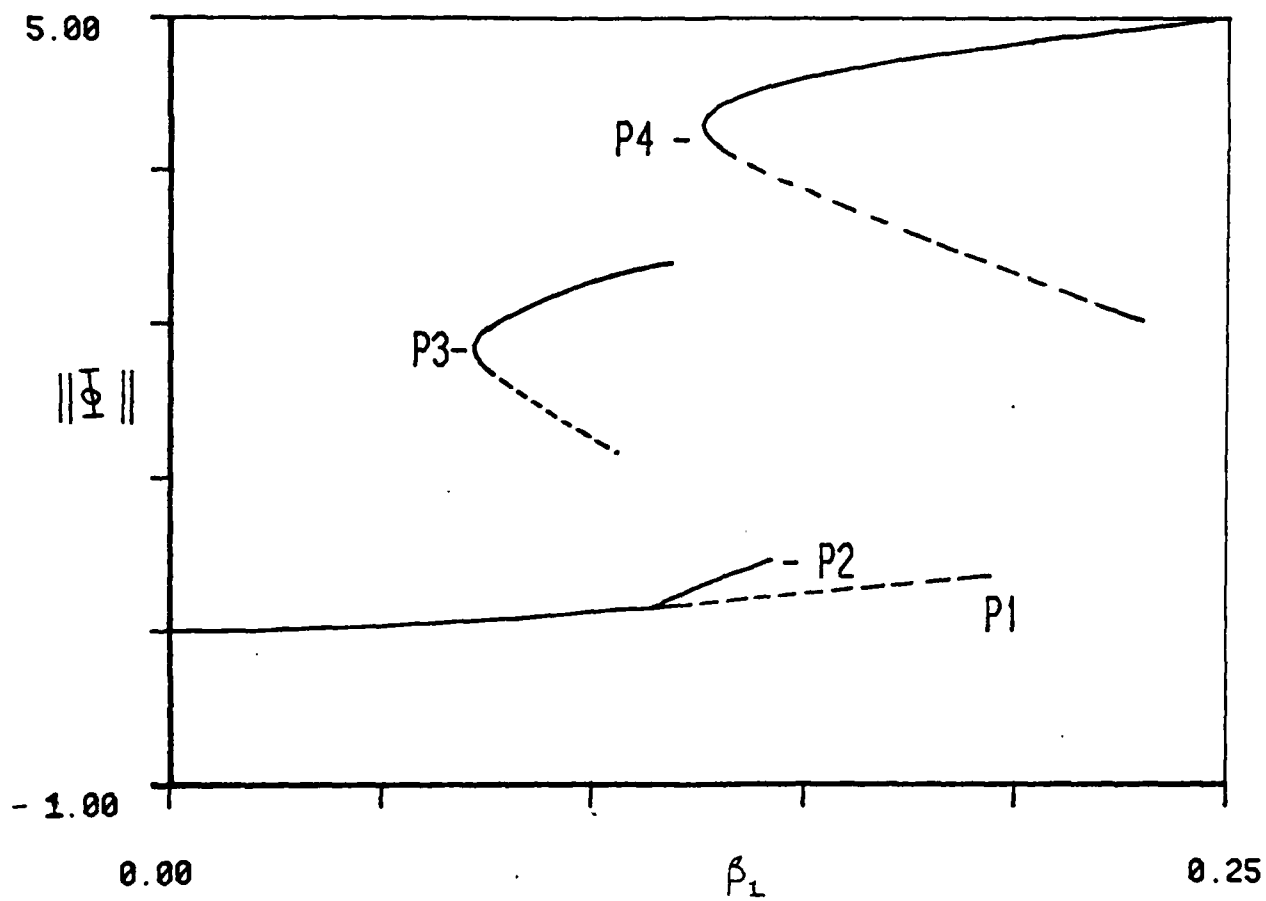


Fig. 1 — Bifurcation diagram. A plot of the norm of periodic solutions as a function of forcing amplitude shows the existence of bistability. Solid lines denote stable orbits, and dashed lines unstable orbits.

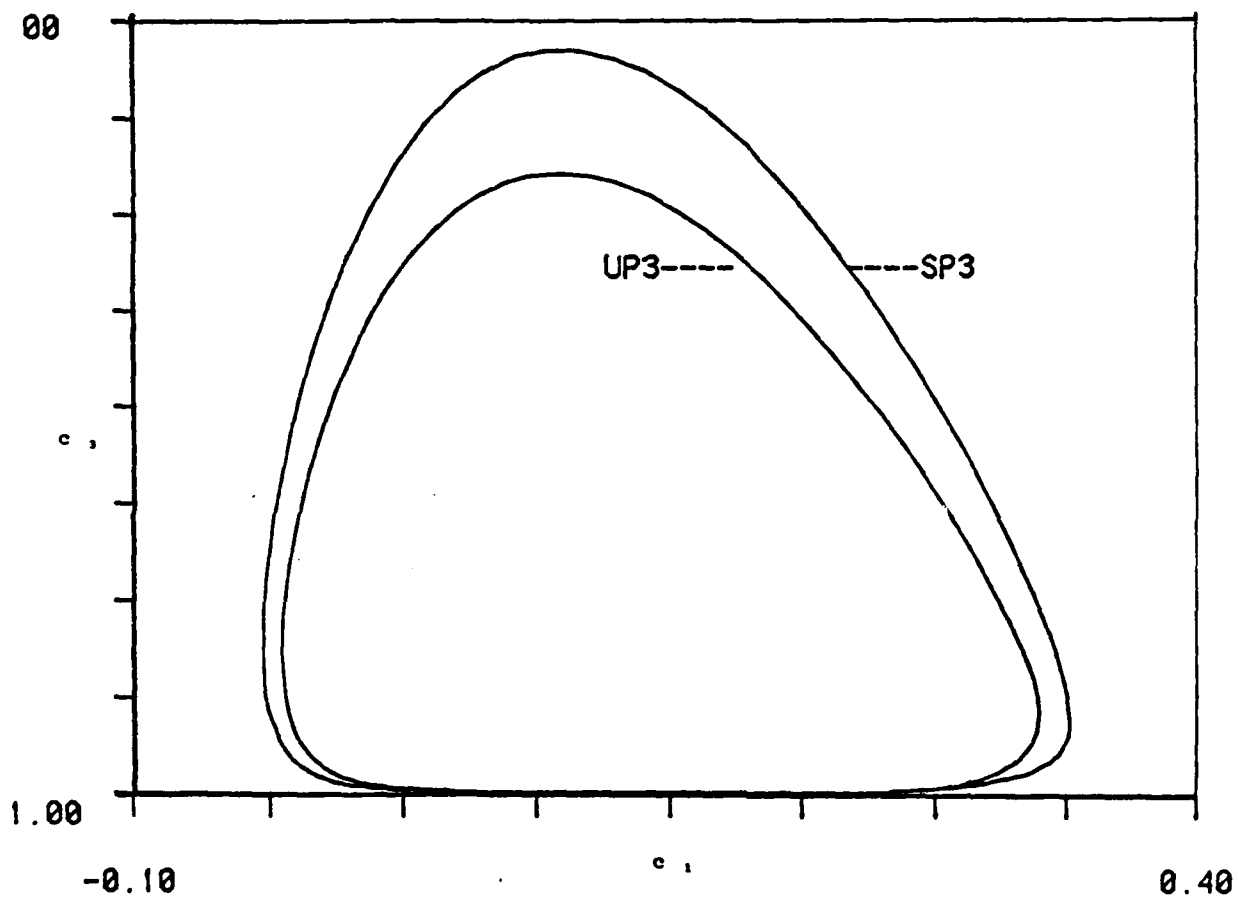


Fig. 2a — An example of unstable and stable period 3 orbits when  $\beta_1 \approx 0.075$ .

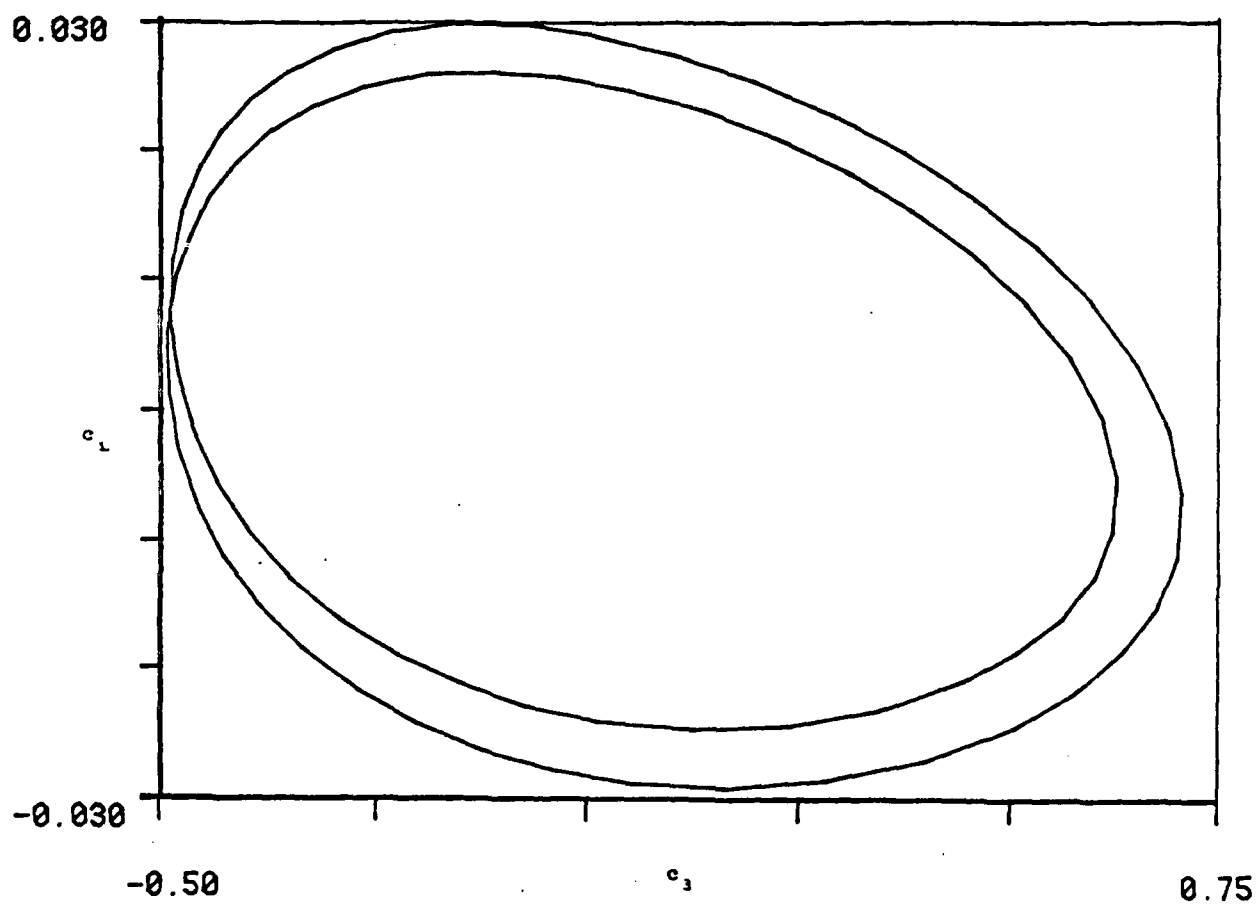


Fig. 2b — A period doubled orbit. Here  $\beta_1 \approx 0.12$ .

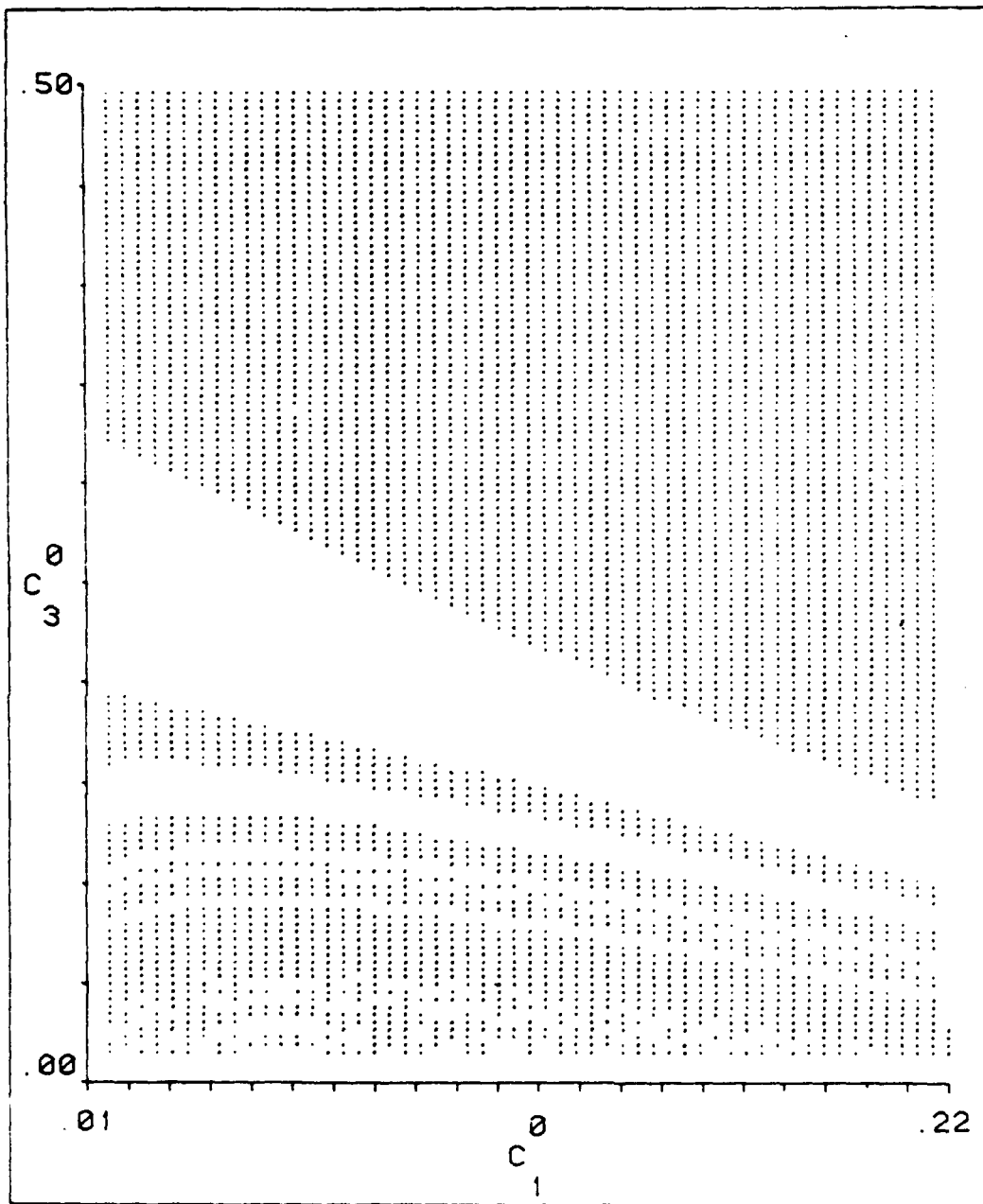


Fig. 3a — Basins of attraction for a bistable case are shown when  $\beta_1 = 0.1$ . Dotted regions depict the basin of attraction for the SP1 orbit, and the white regions depict the basin for the SP3 cycle. The grid of initial conditions was uniform.

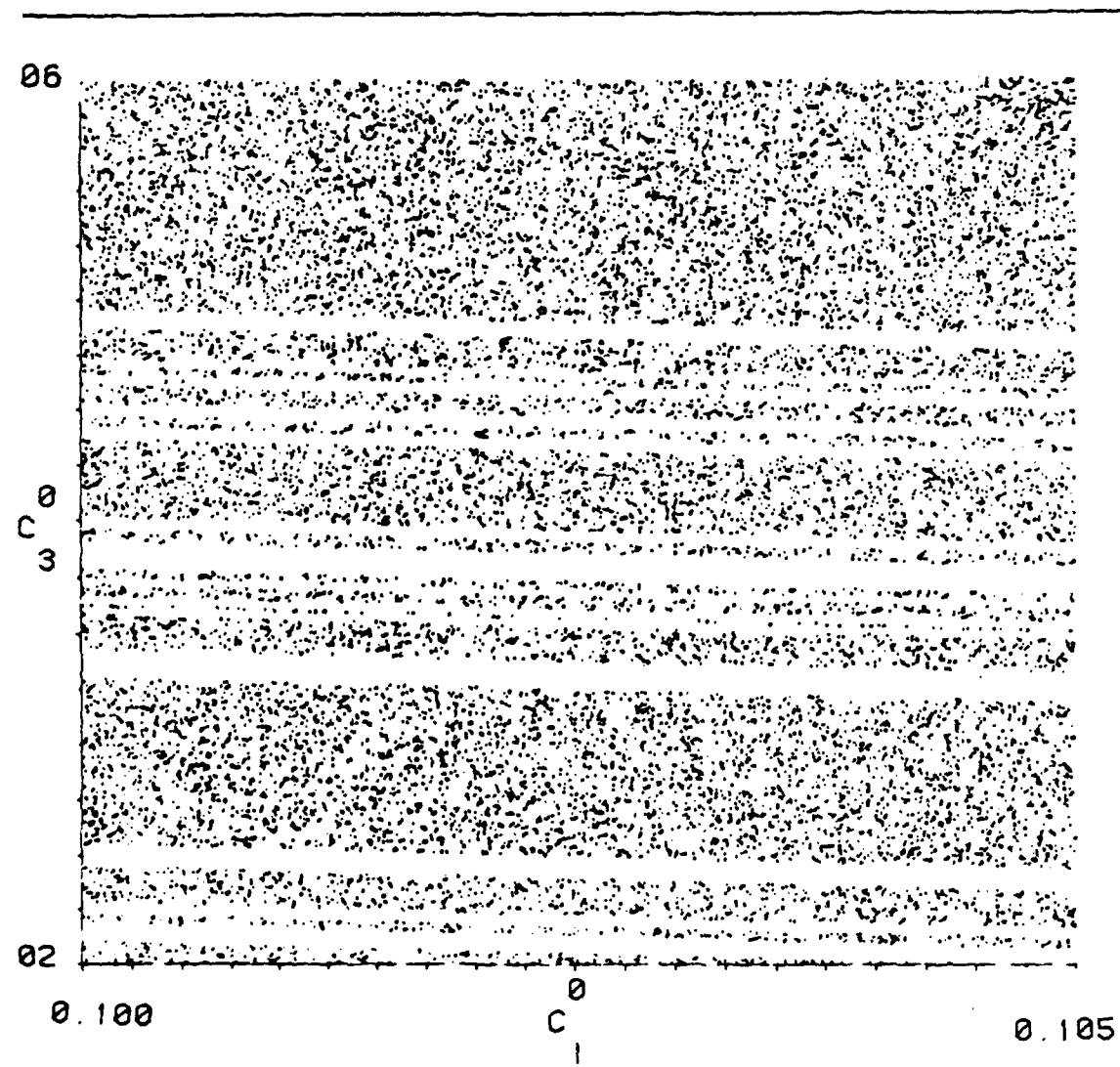


Fig. 3b — Basins of attraction depicting a blow-up of a small region on Fig. 3a. The initial conditions are chosen at random. The fractal-like structure is evident.

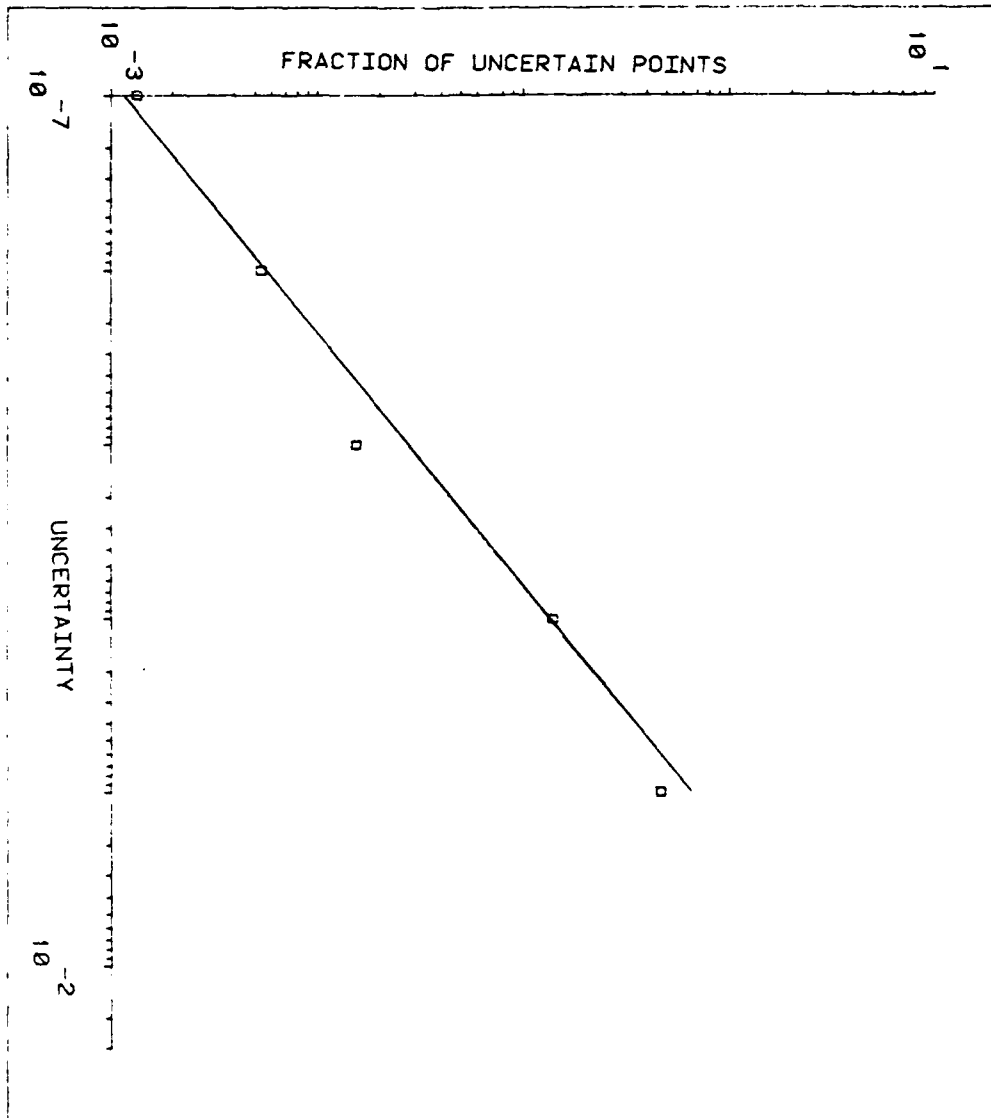


Fig. 4 — Fraction of uncertain points are plotted as a function of imprecision in the initial conditions.  
The dimension of the basin boundary was found to be approximately 1.32.

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